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29 September 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*South Vietnam: The Viet Cong are continuing to maintain pressure in the countryside.

Small-scale attacks, ambushes, hamlet harassments, railroad sabotage and terrorism remain at a high level. No large-scale Viet Cong attacks have been confirmed during the past few days.

There have been no repercussions reported as yet from the government's military occupation yesterday of the principal stronghold of rebellious Rhade paramilitary units. The government has issued a communiqué claiming the rebellion is over, but rebel leaders are still in the bush, and the potential remains for further difficulties.

The situation in Qui Nhon, capital of Binh Dinh Province in central Vietnam, remains troubled following a week-end incident which resulted in the deaths of three persons and the wounding of a number of others by security forces. Government reinforcements have been flown in and a curfew has been imposed.

Government authorities are now negotiating with members of the local chapter of Dr. Quyen's People's Revolutionary Committee, a militant organization frequently wont to take the law into its own hands. It was the formation of this local chapter which triggered week-long demonstrations in Qui Nhon.

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United Nations - Cyprus: [UN mediator Galo-Plaza believes any solution of the Cyprus dispute must give primary consideration to Makarios' views.]

[In a long conversation with US officials, Plaza emphasized the dominant and ambitious personality of Makarios. He feels Makarios' prestige is continually rising on the island, that he is far more influential than General Grivas, and he is not significantly influenced by the Greek Government. Plaza is convinced that Makarios does not want union with Greece and may try to oppose it.]

[Plaza believes the Turkish Cypriots, on the other hand, are closely controlled by Turkey and he castigated their leadership for "creating the issue of starvation at Kokkina" for political reasons.]

[Plaza also speculated that Makarios may attempt to capture the spotlight by appearing before the UN General Assembly. Makarios probably feels that a plea to the UN for an independent Cyprus would receive a sympathetic response from a majority of UN members.]

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Colombia: Political, economic and military factors in Colombia are combining to place the National Front government in danger of collapse.

The US Embassy in Bogota foresees a period of political drift during which any serious political crisis could lead to a military takeover.

The government's majority in Congress will probably be insufficient to pass necessary legislation, given the absenteeism, lack of discipline and personal animosities among the progovernment Liberals and Conservatives. Although the Liberals have managed to stay together, the two warring factions which comprise the Conservative Party show no signs of making up their differences.

This situation is aggravated by continuing economic difficulties and by the apparent lack of success of the government's antiguerrilla campaign in Marquetalia.

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Dahomey: Heretofore strongly pro-Western Dahomey is displaying increasing receptiveness to expanded ties with Communist countries.

Last week the government of moderate Premier Ahomadegbe signed three trade and cultural accords with a visiting East German delegation, including one providing for permanent trade missions in Cotonou and East Berlin.

Earlier this month Dahomey, which maintains diplomatic relations with Taipei, edged toward recognition of Communist China by cordially receiving an official "good will" delegation from Peiping. At the same time, Dahomey's foreign minister skipped the Organization of African Unity's special meeting on the Congo to make a hastily arranged visit to the USSR.

President Apithy is actively encouraging Dahomey's new course. Ahomadegbe, the dominant personality in the regime which took over after a revolution a year ago, appears unwilling to buck the current drift in view of rising criticism of his government's inability to show economic progress.

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NOTES

United Nations: [Afro-Asian representatives at the UN are aroused over recent incidents of lawlessness in New York in which their diplomats have been insulted and beaten. The Afro-Asian caucus has asked the Secretary General to circulate a "highly damaging" letter which includes a threat to bring the matter before the General Assembly. At a meeting of the Afro-Asians on UN financing the delegates refused to discuss that issue because of the "greater importance" of mistreatment of one of their diplomats.]

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